

Medical Panel Says JFK Shot From Behind

WASHINGTON (AP) — A panel of medical experts which met in secret last year says the autopsy findings on President John F. Kennedy were correct as detailed in the Warren Commission Report and prove he was shot twice from behind.

The report was made public by the Justice Department Thursday night on the eve of court proceedings on a petition by New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison to gain possession of autopsy photographs and x-rays in the hope of proving the President was hit by one bullet fired from in front him, and another fired at his back.

Garrison subpoenaed the material as evidence in the trial of Clay L. Shaw, retired 55-year-old New Orleans businessman charged with conspiring to murder Kennedy.

Garrison claims he can use the photographs and x-rays to prove at least one of the bullets which struck Kennedy in Dallas five years ago was fired from his front.

This would show that a conspiracy was involved, whereas the Warren Commission concluded Kennedy was shot by one

man, Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone.

The photographs and x-rays were placed in the care of the National Archives in 1966 by Kennedy's widow, Mrs. Aristotle Onassis, and his brother, the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

This was done by letter agreement that the material would not be made public for five years, and then only to government investigators, to prevent "undignified or sensational" use of them.

Garrison asked that the District of Columbia General Sessions Court order the national archivist, James B. Rhoads, to appear with the material at Shaw's trial Jan. 21. Rhoads was ordered to a show-cause hearing today to explain why he should not.

He filed an application in the court Thursday listing several reasons. For one thing, Rhoads said, violating restrictions under which the National Archives received the material "would completely destroy the public confidence in the federal government to honor its commitments to donors of papers, oral history transcripts and other historical material."

Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark, who released the review panel's findings said Mrs. Onassis and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., the only surviving Kennedy brother, were consulted before the material was shown to the panel.

Burke Marshall, former assistant attorney general who represents the Kennedys in the matter, said Sen. Kennedy and Mrs. Onassis "both asked me to say that they will have no comment, to make on the report or its release."

Clark did not say why the review was kept secret. The report of the panelists was signed last spring. It says they met to review the autopsy material last Feb. 26 and 27 in Washington.

Members of the panel were Dr. William H. Carnes, professor of pathology at the University of Utah; Dr. Russell S. Fisher, professor of forensic pathology at the University of Maryland; Dr. Russell H. Morgan, professor of radiology and radiological science at John Hopkins University, and Dr. Alan R. Moritz, professor of pathology at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

Their report said, "Examination of the clothing and of the photographs and x-rays taken at the autopsy reveal that President Kennedy was struck by two bullets fired from above and behind him, one of which traversed the base of the neck on the right side without striking bone and the other of which entered the skull from behind and exploded its right side.

"The photographs and x-rays discussed herein support the above-quoted portion of the original autopsy and the above-quoted medical conclusions of the Warren Commission Report."

James Alcock, Garrison's chief assistant, said Thursday night the panelists' report "doesn't satisfy our subpoena. It just seems we're getting the same old slight-of-hand."

Alcock will handle the courtroom prosecution in the trial of Clay Shaw, 55, a retired New Orleans businessman charged with conspiring to assassinate Kennedy. The trial is scheduled to start Tuesday.